

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04156 131045Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 W
-----131048Z 046796 /10 R
O R 131000Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8617
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4156

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SA
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 135342

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES REFTEL DRAFT OF HRCEP IS A FAIR DESCRIPTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SAUDI ARABIA. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING MINOR CHANGES:
A. IN PARAGRAPH A.1.C. AFTER "ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION ARE NOT CONDONED OR PRACTICED BY THE GOVERNMENT.", ADD "HOWEVER, LACK OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE SAUDI LEGAL SYSTEM AND INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT JUDICIAL ORGANIZATIONS LEAD TO OCCASIONAL ABUSES."
B. IN PARAGRAPH A.1.D. AFTER "THE DEFENDANT ENJOYS THE RIGHT OF APPEAL AND THE RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL.", INSERT "IN PRACTICE, LACK OF ORGANIZATION IN THE RECENTLY-FORMED (1970) MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FREQUENTLY RESULTS IN DELAY OF TRIALS. (IN CRIMINAL CASES TRIALS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BE DELAYED UP TO TWO MONTHS.)"
C. IN SECTION 4.B.1. UNDER "U.S. OBJECTIVES AND COURSES OF ACTION" AFTER THE SENTENCE "LEGALLY, THE STATUS OF WOMEN IS INFERIOR TO THAT OF MEN", CHANGE THE FOLLOWING TWO SENTENCES TO READ "IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS THE TESTIMONY OF WOMEN IS NOT NORMALLY ACCORDED THE SAME WEIGHT AS THAT OF MEN. IN MATTERS OF INHERITANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04156 131045Z

SUNNI ORTHODOX ISLAMIC LEGAL PRACTICE, WOMEN DO NOT NORMALLY INHERIT ON THE SAME BASIS AS MEN". COMMENT: WE THINK IT PREFERABLE TO AVOID TOO MUCH SPECIFICITY IN DISCUSSING THE COMPLEX SUBJECT OF ISLAMIC LAW. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO BE MORE PRECISE, PERHAPS THE DEPARTMENT COULD DRAW ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF A WELL KNOWN EXPERT SUCH AS FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INR/RNA HERBERT J. LEBEISNEY, END

COMMENT.

D. IN SAME SECTION AFTER SENTENCE "THEY DO NOT STEM FROM A CONSCIOUS GOVERNMENT POLICY OF REPRESSION DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL GOALS", ADD "NEITHER THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT NOR SAUDI SOCIETY IN GENERAL VIEWS THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE KINGDOM AS INVOLVING A QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARE LIKELY TO RESENT ITS BEING PUT IN THOSE TERMS."

COMMENT: WE THINK THIS POINT, THOUGH MADE IN OTHER TERMS, NEEDS EMPHASIS. TOO OPEN OFFICIAL US CONCERN FOR THE QUESTION OF WOMEN'S STATUS COULD INCITE A BACKLASH FROM CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS ALREADY CONCERNED BY THE "EROSION" OF SAUDI STANDARDS WHICH HAS COME ABOUT FROM CONTACT WITH ESTERNERS IN THE KINGDOM. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO BE ALARMIST ABOUT THE EFFECT SUCH A BACKLASH COULD HAVE ON SAG ATTITUDES TOWARDS MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT, IT WOULD CERTAINLY RESULT IN A SETBACK FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IN THE GRADUALLY IMPROVING STATUS OF WOMEN.

HORAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, COUNTRY INFORMATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JIDDA04156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770210-0045
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770664/aaaacdwp.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49344f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 135342
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2178527
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN
TAGS: SHUM, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49344f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009